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SUBJECT: ANKARA MEDIA REACTION REPORT,  
TUESDAY, MAY 4, 2004

THIS REPORT WILL PRESENT A TURKISH PRESS SUMMARY UNDER  
THREE THEMES:

HEADLINES  
BRIEFING  
EDITORIAL OPINION

#### HEADLINES

##### MASS APPEAL

Talat will urge Powell to remove TRNC sanctions - Milliyet  
Six American torturers to be dismissed from army - Hurriyet  
Suicide bomb plot against Bush -Aksam  
Terrorists were to bomb the Istanbul NATO Summit - Hurriyet  
Terror organization aiming at NATO summit broken up -  
Turkiye  
Sharon may change his withdrawal plan - Milliyet  
Tension high in Georgia, war looming - Sabah

##### OPINION MAKERS

Papadopolous: Turkey is obliged to recognize us - Zaman  
Papadopoulos threatens Turkey as EU member - Yeni Safak  
Iraqi victim says US torture 'worse than Saddam' -  
Cumhuriyet  
Torture official policy of US - Yeni Safak  
FM Gul: Abuse of Iraqi captives 'shameful' - Radikal  
Annan: International peacekeepers may be deployed in Iraq -  
Cumhuriyet  
Sharon insists on withdrawal plan, won't resign - Zaman  
90 million evangelicals to determine outcome of Election  
2004 - Radikal

#### BRIEFING

Cyprus: Turkish Cypriot 'PM' Mehmet Ali Talat will call for  
an end to the international isolation of northern Cyprus  
when he holds a meeting today with Secretary of State Colin  
Powell. Turkish Cypriot leader Denktas welcomed Powell's  
meeting with Talat for providing legitimacy to the existence  
of the 'TRNC,' but was obviously upset that he was 'pushed  
out' of the international arena. Greek Cypriot leader  
Papadopolous warned that Turkey is obliged to improve its  
relations with the Republic of Cyprus, now an EU member.  
Otherwise, Papadopolous stressed, it will not be possible  
for Turkey to expect a better relationship with the EU.  
Responding to a question in Ankara on Monday, FM Gul said it  
was 'too early' for Turkey to recognize south Cyprus, and  
added that his government would 'wait to see developments.'

Police foil fundamentalist bomb plot aimed at NATO summit:  
Turkish police detained 24 militants, all of them Turkish  
nationals, with suspected links to the Al-Qaida Islamic  
terror organization. The men are suspected of preparing to  
carry out bomb attacks against the NATO summit in Istanbul  
in June. The 24 suspects were detained in two separate  
operations in Istanbul and Bursa. They allegedly had ties  
to the radical Islamist group Ansar al-Islam, which is  
believed to be linked to Al-Qaida. After carrying out a  
'sensational' attack in Turkey, possibly including a bombing  
at the summit or an attack against a synagogue in Bursa, the  
suspects were planning to go to Iraq to fight against US  
forces. CNN-Turk reported that 3 of the suspects had been  
planning a suicide attack against President Bush during the  
NATO summit. Significant amounts of bomb-making material  
and equipment as well as Al-Qaeda training materials were  
seized during the police raids.

Allegations of Iraqi prisoner abuse; Fallujah militia: The U.S. military has reprimanded six officers in connection with the mistreatment of prisoners at the Abu Ghraib prison in Baghdad, according to a senior US military official. FM Gul said the photographs of mistreated Iraqi captives were 'shameful' images that would never be forgotten. Gul added that it was 'positive' that the claims were being investigated and that those responsible would be called to account for their actions. A journalist for "Hurriyet" talked with a group of Fallujah fighters engaged in the resistance against coalition forces. The fighters included engineers, architects, former military officers and doctors. They characterized themselves as freedom fighters, and rejected the notion that they are terrorists. According to the report, the fighters are well-organized and well-armed. They operate in small groups. The guerrillas say they have killed many Iraqi informants collaborating with the Americans, and added that they would continue striking at nationals of coalition forces in Iraq, including journalists and businessmen. 'We could never have toppled Saddam without the Americans,' says an unidentified Iraqi student of medicine. At first he said, he and most other Iraqis welcomed the Americans. They turned against the occupation because of the 'treatment of the people' by coalition forces. 'It will be easier to get rid of the Americans compared with Saddam,' he noted. An Iraqi journalist in northern Iraq told "Cumhuriyet" that the Shiite and Sunni fronts have joined forces in fighting the Americans and their collaborators, the Kurds. A US withdrawal from Kirkuk would cause great turmoil in the region, he stressed.

#### EDITORIAL OPINION: Iraq Prisoner Abuse

##### "Looking for America"

Oktay Eksi opined in the mass appeal Hurriyet (5/4): "Let's be honest first of all: There is no way to interpret the awful pictures from Iraq as isolated incidents. Thanks to George W. Bush, the US has lost its sense of values on human rights and the supremacy of law. Thus the current picture is only a reflection of current American values. If George Bush is sincere enough, the solution to this problem is simple: he should follow the example of General Patton, who was discharged from the US army for slapping an American soldier. . Turkey has taken its share of US abuse, as we still remember how Turkish soldiers were treated during a raid in northern Iraq on July 4, 2003. Americans are very wrong if they believe that such memories can be forgotten. Neither Turks nor Iraqis can forget such humiliation."

##### "Sadists are marketing democracy and human rights"

Davut Dursun argued in the Islamist-opinion maker Yeni Safak (5/4): "There is no country in the world where democracy can be imported. To begin with, it was impossible to expect or believe that occupation forces would bring democracy to Iraq. However, the need for restructuring the Middle East region is real. Historically, it was a region shaped by UK and French interests, where the peoples of the region had no input. Today the US is following the same path by trying to reshape the Middle East based on its own interests. . It seems that the US and the Western world treat the Iraqi people and Muslims in general in a way that suggests they are taking revenge for the 9/11 attacks. The humiliation, rape, abuse and torture of Iraqis are giving them a feeling of satisfaction in having achieved a kind of revenge. The sad part of the story is that these criminals and sadists bill themselves as defenders of civilization, democracy and human rights throughout the world."

##### "A Clean War"

Okay Gonensin commented in the mass appeal Vatan: "The photos of the mistreatment by coalition forces of Iraqi POWs have shocked the world. Apparently, the coalition forces were torturing prisoners in the name of fighting for a just cause. I am not surprised that the international public has been shocked by the photos. The world had been convinced that the US military was fighting a clean war after the horror of September 11. People covered their ears before those who were screaming that this war was anything but clean. Moreover, they blamed those who claimed such things as being anti-American. Remember how the US treated Japanese and Chinese Americans who were gathered in camps after the US was attacked by Japan. Of course, these two cases are not the same. But it is not shocking to see today's photos once we remember the treatment meted out to innocent US citizens just because of their color or ethnic origin. . There cannot be a clean war. People who believe otherwise can only be called naive. When there is a war, the more powerful side will torture, rape, kill and steal (Who robbed the museums in Iraq -- Saddam's men or the Americans?). But thank God there is such a thing as the photograph. Photos showed us

that what happened in Nazi concentration camps and in Vietnam. And now, they are showing us what is happening in Iraq".

EDELMAN